

Astronomy Course Syllabus

Mr. MacArthur

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Office hours: Access and by appointment

Course Description

Astronomy is the scientific study of the universe and the objects in it, including stars, planets, nebulae, and galaxies.

Class Format

Activities and Labs

- Astronomy is a “hands on” class that will require everyone’s participation while in class.
- Participation and working well with your peers are vital to your success in this course.

Homework

- Weekly homework will be assigned as well and is calculated into the final grade.

Lecture

- There will be a lecture component also to the class. Students will be expected to take notes in the class and study those notes. The tests and homework come directly from the notes we take in class.

Tests

- Tests will be given after every unit / topic.
- There will be a final exam.

Projects

- Will be assigned throughout the semester.

Star Parties

- See section below.

Science Literacy

Reading and writing are important skills in all areas of study including science. In this course, students will read and analyze scientific material, participate in scientific research, and demonstrate scientific writing in lab reports.

Course Book

We will use a variety of reading sources, but the class notes will serve as your main text to study and get information from. There is not a formal textbook for this class.

Star Parties

I will be offering 4 parties this semester, 3 virtual and 1 in person. You are **required** to attend 1 for regular lab credit. If you attend a second you will receive a lab worth of extra credit. The dates for the star parties are to be determined and are weather dependent. If you are not able to attend one of the star parties, you will have the opportunity to write an APA formatted research paper comparing two deep sky objects. This option will allow you to receive credit for the star party lab. Families are always welcome to attend the star party.

Supplies

Every student is required to bring the following to class

- Pen and pencil
- Binder with paper or notebook

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on points for all homework assignments, labs, projects, and test.

The following grading scale will be used:

90-100 %	A
80-89 %	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
below 60 %	F

All grades are kept up to date on Infinite Campus

Extra Credit

I do not offer extra credit. From time to time, I may offer the class the opportunity to do extra work for possible bonus points. Other than that, I don't offer extra credit to select students. It is to your advantage to do extra credit when I offer it because it can only help your grade in the long run and may give you a bit of a "cushion." Don't expect me to offer extra credit at the end of grading terms or right before grades are due just so that you can raise your grade. That is not fair to those students who have worked hard the rest of the grading period to keep their grades up.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed to be used in class unless there are pre-approved reasons for accommodations. All students are required to turn their phones into the cell phone table where they are assigned a number. If students do not turn in their phone, they will be reminded to turn in their phone. If I catch a student with their phone or electronic device during class after a warning, I will take the device to the office where they can collect it after school. There will be times in class when students are permitted to use their electronic device. I will let them know when that time is. The purpose for this classroom norm is to help students focus on the content being given in class and reduce disruption.

Safety

All safety precautions must be observed during laboratories and demonstrations. Safety precautions will vary based on the lab or activity we are doing.

- ALWAYS wear safety goggles
- Tie back loose hair and clothing
- Never leave loose chemicals out
- Do not take any lab specimens out of the room.
- Follow all safety guidelines listed in specific lab procedures.
- Students must always adhere to all guidelines in the safety contract!

Classroom Conduct

Every student and teacher will be treated with respect. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Being attentive while others are talking.
- Arriving to class on-time
- Avoiding behaviors that will disrupt others around you.
- The use of profanity will not be tolerated.
- Participation in small and large group projects.
- Return with the bathroom pass in a timely manner.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. In the event of an absence;

- The absence must be excused through the attendance office.
- If the absence is unexcused the student will receive a zero for all assignments due that day.

Make-up work for an EXCUSED absence;

- Assignments that are due on the date of the absence are due immediately when the student returns to class.
- Missed quizzes or tests must be made up within one week of the absence during Access.
- Make-up work is not accepted for unexcused absences.

Tardies

- Students are expected to be in-class when the bell rings. Students with multiple tardies will be subject to a referral.

Other Classroom Norms

- No food or drinks are permitted in class.
- Only one student may have a hall pass at a time. Limit your time with the pass to no more than 5 minutes. Misuse of the bathroom pass may lead to loss of pass privileges.
- Students will remain in their seats until the bell rings.
- Late work is not accepted unless discussed with me.

When all else fails, communicate with me. I want this year to be successful for everybody.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students attending HRHS are expected to be responsible for their academic work in all instances. Students will maintain academic integrity by exercising self-discipline, determining the right thing to do and doing it, and working cooperatively with others and independently when appropriate. Cheating will not be tolerated. Any student who commits an act of cheating will receive no credit for the assignment. In addition, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. If the student is a member of National Honor Society or Spanish National Honor Society, he or she will be dismissed from the Honor Society. The use of AI tools must adhere to the same principles of ethics, plagiarism, citations, and student conduct outlined in the student handbook. By adhering to these guidelines, HRHS students can benefit from the educational value of AI tools while upholding the principles of academic integrity and ethical conduct already established.

HONOR CODE - As a student at Highlands Ranch High School:

I will be responsible for all my actions.

I will complete school assignments without cheating and/or plagiarizing.

I will respect school property and the property of others.

I will respect the rights and opinions of students, faculty, and members of the community, even when I disagree with those opinions.

I will promote and practice ethical behavior within the school and the community. I will demonstrate excellence and fulfill my potential.

I will not assist other students to plagiarize or cheat.

Any violation of the honor code will result in disciplinary consequences. Your teacher may decide to ask you to include the following statement on all tests, papers, or projects: "I did not cheat or plagiarize while completing this assignment." The disciplinary consequences for honor code violations are consistent with those described in the Douglas County Student Code of Conduct and Discipline and the Highlands Ranch High School Handbook.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism involves the use of another's ideas, words, or creative products without proper attribution (citing the source). Attribution includes, but is not limited to, using quotation marks around direct quotes taken from a source. Proper attribution also includes citing the source(s) in parenthetical citation and/or a bibliography. At Highlands Ranch High School plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student who commits an act of plagiarism will receive no credit for the assignment and a referral will be written for dishonest behavior. Counselors are required to include a statement of academic integrity when a student submits a college application. In addition, the student may be suspended or expelled as per Douglas County School Board policy. If the student is a member of National Honor Society, he or she will be dismissed from the Society. Always, always, always cite your sources! Teachers have tools to check the student's sources if plagiarism is suspected.

Do not copy another student's work. This constitutes cheating. Do not give your work to another student to copy. By doing so, you assist another student to plagiarize or cheat, which violates the Honor Code.

*****Taken from the Highlands Ranch High School Student Handbook*****